

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A holder for drying specimens, comprising:

an inner base section that is generally cup-shaped and an outer section that annularly corresponds to said inner section, and is removable from said inner section; wherein

said inner base section comprises an annular retention wall to hold fluid within a volume of said inner base section, flow holes to allow the fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said inner base section, and standoff sections to provide an area that said inner base section can rest on and that positions said outer section in relation to said inner base section; and

said outer section is comprised of an annular wall having a slightly larger diameter than said annular retention wall of said inner base section, and a handle to allow operator interaction with said holder.

2. A holder as described in claim 1, wherein said holder has a first position that allows fluid flow, and a second position to provide fluid containment.

3. A holder as described in claim 2, wherein said first position is provided when said outer section and said inner section are not in contact, allowing said flow holes to be uncovered by said annular retention wall, allowing fluid to flow in and out of the holes.

4. A holder as described in claim 2, wherein said second position is provided by said outer section and said inner section in contact with each other;

said outer section is retained in position in contact with said inner base section by said standoffs, and said annular closing wall closes off said flow holes to prevent any fluid contained within said inner base section to escape through the holes.

5. A holder for drying specimens, comprising an inner holding section that is generally cup-shaped and an outer retaining section that annularly corresponds to said inner section, and is rotatable around a common axis with said inner holding section; wherein

said inner holding section comprises a circular floor and annular wall to hold fluid within the volume of said inner holding section, and at least one flow hole in said annular wall to allow the fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said inner holding section; and

said outer retaining section comprises an annular wall having a slightly larger diameter than said annular wall of said inner holding section, said annular wall having at least one flow hole to allow the fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said inner holding section.

6. A holder as described in claim 5, wherein said holder has a first position that allows fluid flow, and a second position to provide fluid containment.

7. A holder as described in claim 6, wherein said first position is provided when said outer retaining section is rotated about said inner holding section so as to not allow any of said flow holes to communicate with each other.

8. A holder as described in claim 6, wherein said second position is provided when said outer retaining section is rotated about said inner holding section so as to allow said flow holes to communicate with each other.

9. A holder for drying specimens, comprising a holding section that is generally cup-shaped, wherein said holding section comprises:

a circular floor and an annular wall to hold fluid within a volume of said holding section, and at least one flow hole provided in said floor to allow fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said holding section;

at least one plug seal to alternatively close or open said flow hole; and

at least one resilient member to return said plug seal to a closed position.

10. A holder as described in claim 9, wherein said holder has a first position that allows fluid flow, and a second position to provide fluid containment.

11. A holder as described in claim 10, wherein said first position is provided by a state in which no pressure is present in said holder, which allows said plug seal to remain in a seated position in said flow hole.

12. A holder as described in claim 10, wherein said second position is provided by a state in which pressure is present in said holder, the pressure causes said plug seal to move to an unseated position, the unseated position unseals said flow hole and allows fluid to flow through said flow hole, said resilient member will return said plug seal to the seated position and seal said flow hole when pressure on said holder is removed.

13. A holder for drying specimens, comprising a holding section that is generally cup-shaped; wherein

said holding section comprises a circular floor and an annular wall to hold fluid within a volume of said holding section, and at least one plug seal and flow hole, said flow hole provided to allow the fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said holding section;

said plug seal comprises a seal portion and a plug actuating portion, said plug actuating portion extends vertically downward from said holder and contacts any opposing surface prior to said holder.

14. A holder as described in claim 13, wherein said holder has a first position that allows fluid flow, and a second position to provide fluid containment.

15. A holder as described in claim 14, wherein said first position is provided by a state in which said holder is not resting on any opposing surface, allowing said plug seal to remain in a seated position in said flow hole.

16. A holder as described in claim 14, wherein said second position is provided by a state in which said holder is resting on any opposing surface, causing said plug seal to be pushed upward relative to said flow hole by the weight of said holder, said plug seal pushed upward unseals said flow hole and allows fluid to flow through said hole, said plug seal returning to a position that seals said flow hole when said holder is removed from said opposing surface.

17. A holder for drying specimens, comprising:

an inner base section and an outer section that annularly corresponds to said inner base section, and is removable from said inner base section; wherein

said inner base section comprises an annular retention wall extending therefrom, at least one flow hole; and

said outer section comprises an annular wall having a slightly larger diameter than said annular retention wall of said inner base section, and a handle.

18. A holder for drying specimens, comprising an inner holding section and an outer retaining section that annularly corresponds to said inner holding section, and is rotatable around a common axis with said inner holding section; wherein

said inner holding section comprises a circular floor, an annular wall, and at least one flow hole in said annular wall; and

said outer retaining section comprises an annular wall having a slightly larger diameter than said annular wall of said inner holding section, said annular wall of said outer retaining section having at least one flow hole.

19. A holder for drying specimens, comprising a holding section, wherein said holding section comprises:

a circular floor, an annular wall which extends from said floor, and at least one flow hole in said floor;

at least one plug seal in said flow hole; and

at least one resilient member in contact with said plug seal.

20. A holder for drying specimens, comprising:

a holding section which includes a circular floor, an annular wall which extends from said floor, and at least one flow hole in said floor; and

at least one plug seal comprising a seal portion and a plug actuating portion, said plug actuating portion extending vertically downward from said holder.

21. A holder for drying specimens, comprising:
holding means for holding a fluid within a volume; and
operating means for alternatively holding the fluid within the volume, and
for allowing the fluid to flow into and out of the volume.

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for allowing the fluid to flow into and out of the volume.